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17555 PEAK AVENUE MORGAN HILL, CALIFORNIA 95037

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Morgan Hill Civic Center  
Council Chambers  
17555 Peak Avenue  
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Chair:  
Vice-Chair:  
Commission Member:  
Commission Member:  
Commission Member:  
Commission Member:  
Commission Member:

Katharine Hardt-Mason  
Craig C. Van Keulen  
Kimberly Leiser  
Martin Cheek  
Lisa Aragon  
Mary Kaye Gerski  
Frank Weiland

## **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

### **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**May 17, 2011**

*Minutes recorded by Commissioner Cheek.*

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chair van Keulen called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

#### **ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE**

Present: Vice-Chair van Keulen, Commissioner Leiser, Commissioner Cheek, Commissioner Gerski, Commissioner Weiland

Absent: Chair Hardt-Mason and Commissioner Aragon

#### **DECLARATION OF POSTING OF AGENDA**

In compliance with Government Code 54954.2

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by Commissioner Gerski

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Commissioner Leiser made a recommendation to include a note in future minutes on who took them.

Commissioner Weiland made a motion to adopt the minutes from the March 16, 2011 meeting. Commissioner Leiser seconded it. Approved by Van Keulen, Leiser, Cheek, and Weiland with Commissioners Gerski abstaining.

## **BUSINESS**

### **1. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson**

Commissioner Leiser moved to elect Vice-Chairperson van Keulen as the commission's new chairperson for a two-year term. Commissioner Gerski seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair-elect van Keulen moved to elect Commissioner Leiser as the commission's new vice-chairperson for a two-year term. Commissioner Gerski seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **2. West Little Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project Informaton and Downtown Trails Vision.**

Community Services Director Steve Rymer told the commissioners that two representatives from the Santa Clara Valley Water District would provide an update on the downtown flood control project, sharing information the commissioners need to consider in the development of a potential downtown linear park or trail.

Karl Bjarke, the interim public works director for the city of Morgan Hill, discussed briefly that the city of Morgan Hill and the water district was "making important progress" in terms of the design for the flood control project. He said that the project would be a "notable landmark for downtown" and have an impact on the downtown district.

Bjarke introduced Bal Ganjoo, a senior project manager at the water district, and Sunshine Ventura, a water district planner, to the commissioners.

Ganjoo gave the PRC members a background on the history of the flood control project and an update on its progress. A key element of the project is obtaining funding from the federal government – estimated to be between \$60 million and \$70 million.

Ventura provided the commissioners with a PowerPoint presentation in which she described the flooding history in Morgan Hill from 1955 to 2009. The object of the flood control project is to provide a 100-year flood protection in urban areas and a 10-year flood protection in rural areas. In 1999, the project was transferred to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The lack of funding from the federal government has delayed the project since then.

In her project overview, Ventura described how the downtown Morgan Hill district is in the "Reach 8" section of the project, a 1.2-mile section stretching from West Dunne Avenue to Hale Avenue. Depending on federal funding, Ventura projected that the start of construction on the project will be in 2014. The water district's main task is focused on getting the right of way for the project. Ventura said she is now working on getting the environmental review survey completed, and when that's accomplished, the water district will begin looking at getting the right of way. Construction will start

downstream and work upstream. The downtown portion of the project will likely start in 2015 or later 2014, depending on federal funding.

Bjarke told the commissioners that the city of Morgan Hill would need to take responsibility for the design of a possible public trail for the project. Obtaining right of way is a “constraint” for this aspect of the project.

### **3. FY 11/12 Workplan Development and Lliaison Assignments**

Steve Rymer told the commissioners that the Workplan includes four aspects:

- a.) Develop a vision for downtown linear parks
- b.) Continue the development of a community-wide “Adopt-a-Park” and Donation Policy
- c.) Continue work on creating a Tobacco-Free parks and public spaces policy or Ordinance
- d.) Continue park acquisition efforts consistent with City Council priorities

Rymer recommended that the commissioners create a subcommittee to go through the “visioning process” to work with the community to see what a linear park might be like for downtown. He suggested that a small Third Street Park, on the west side of Monterey Road, might be a potential cornerstone to begin the vision of a downtown linear park.

The Workplan needs to go back to the City Council for its approval in July 2012.

The commissioners discussed what organizations they would like to liaison with in the 2011/2012 time frame:

- Chair van Keulen will continue with Morgan Hill Unified School District and the Outdoor Sports Complex
- Vice-Chair Leiser will continue with the Morgan Hill Youth Sports Alliance and the Outdoor Sports Complex
- Commissioner Cheek will continue with the Library, Culture, and Arts Commission (LCAC)
- Commissioner Gerski will continue with the YAC (Youth Activities Club) group
- Commissioner Weiland will continue with Santa Clara County

Chair van Keulen recommended the commission wait until the next PRC meeting to see if Commissioners Hardt-Mason and Aragon wish to continue with their current liaison activities (the school district and the Valley Transit Authority, respectively).

Commissioner Gerski made a motion to recommend the Workplan, as it was presented to the commission, to the City Council. Commissioner Cheek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

After the motion was passed, Morgan Hill citizen Jeff Dixon came to the lectern and discussed the workplan, suggesting that he encourages the commission to be involved with the Morgan Hill Youth Sports Alliance as he wishes to have representation from every group that might be interested in the alliance. Dixon also discussed the parks acquisition aspect of the workplan, saying that “diamond sports” teams (such as softball and baseball teams) now have a difficult time finding facilities in the city for their games. He praised the groups Spirit and Pride, which he said provide “tremendous programs for the community.”

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Steve Rymer introduced the city's new recreation manager, Nick Calubaquib, who told the commissioners about his background in recreation management for the cities of Watsonville and Santa Cruz.

Rymer informed the commissioners about a special open house for the community to discuss the city's budget. This will be held on May 26 at 5:30 p.m. at the Community Center. On June 1, the City Council will have a public hearing on the budget. And on Friday June 3, the City Council will have a budget workshop to discuss the community's response to the budget. Rymer encouraged all commissioners to be involved in the budget meetings, as the budget will play an important role in parks and recreation services and parkland acquisition and development in Morgan Hill.

Rymer informed the commissioners that the recreation department, because of budget changes, has transitioned into the "Community Service Department" and will cover areas much broader than parks and recreation.

## **FUTURE COMMISSION INITIATED AGENDA ITEMS:**

Note: in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a), there shall be no discussion, debate and/or action taken on any request other than providing direction to staff to place the matter of business on a future agenda.

Commissioner Leiser suggested that at the next meeting, the commissioners discuss what the best rotation for minutes taking might be on the calendar. She recommended going down the list of commissioners.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair van Keulen adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m. The next Regular Parks & Recreation Commission meeting is at **7:00 p.m. on July 19, 2011** in City Council Chambers, City Hall, 17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill.

## **NOTICE**

All public records relating to an open session item on this agenda, which are not exempt from disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act that are distributed to a majority of the legislative body less than 72 hours prior to an open session, will be made available for public inspection at the Office of the City Clerk at Morgan Hill City Hall located at 17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA, 95037 at the same time that the public records are distributed or made available to the legislative body. (Pursuant to Government Code 54957.5)

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON AGENDA**

Following the opening of the Meeting, the public may present comments on items *NOT* appearing on the agenda that are within the Commission's jurisdiction. If your comments require Commission action, your request will be placed on the next appropriate agenda. No discussion or action may be taken until your item appears on a future agenda. You may contact the Clerk for specific time and dates. This procedure is in compliance with the California Public Meeting Law (Brown Act) G.C. 54950.5. Please limit your presentation to three (3) minutes.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS APPEARING ON AGENDA**

The Parks & Recreation Commission welcomes comments from all individuals on any agenda item being considered by the Commission. Please complete a Speaker Card and present it to the Clerk. This will assist the Members in hearing

your comments at the appropriate time. Speaker cards are available from staff. In accordance with Government Code 54953.3 it is not a requirement to fill out a speaker card in order to speak to the Commission. However, it is very helpful to the Commission if speaker cards are submitted. As your name is called, please walk to the podium and speak directly into the microphone. Clearly state your name and address and then proceed to comment on the agenda item. In the interest of brevity and timeliness and to ensure the participation of all those desiring an opportunity to speak, comments presented to the Commission are limited to three minutes. We appreciate your cooperation.

**NOTICE**

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)**

The City of Morgan Hill complies with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and will provide reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities to ensure equal access to all facilities, programs and services offered by the City. If you need special assistance to access the meeting room or to otherwise participate at this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 17555 Peak Avenue or call 779-7259 or (Hearing Impaired only - TDD 776-7381) to request accommodation. Please make your request at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to enable staff to implement reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to the meeting.

If assistance is needed regarding any item appearing on the agenda, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 17555 Peak Avenue or call 779-7259 or (Hearing Impaired only - TDD 776-7381) to request accommodation.

**NOTICE**

Notice is given, pursuant to Government Code Section 65009, that any challenge of Public Hearing Agenda items in court, may be limited to raising only those issues raised by you or on your behalf at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Commission at, or prior to the Public Hearing on these matters.

**NOTICE**

The time within which judicial review must be sought of the action by the Commission which acted upon any matter appearing on this agenda is governed by the provisions of Section 1094.6 of the California Code of Civil Procedure.